**SERMON SHEET 12/18/22**

**“Blessed Be the Name of the Lord, #23”**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Text: Ephesians 3:8**

I. Introduction

II. The inexhaustible wonder of Jesus

1. He is the vine (John 15:1-5).
2. He is victorious.
	1. Over the world (John 16:33)
	2. Over our flesh (Romans 7:21-25)
	3. Over the devil (Hebrew 2:14-15)
	4. Over death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

III. Thoughts for Advent: Jesus is the Word who became flesh.

IV. Conclusion: a final word

**QUOTES**

1. Scotty Smith:

*Lord Jesus, no matter how highly we think of you, your splendor and glory have no ceiling or end. No matter how deep we believe the ocean of your grace is, it is unfathomably more****bottomless****. No matter how astonished we are at your incarnation and work on our behalf, we have just begun to apprehend the inexhaustible wonder of the Gospel.*

2. Michael Card:

*There are not enough words to say all that [Jesus is]. We have not enough breath to speak it… It is this almost hopeless feeling of inadequacy to communicate His awesomeness that give passion to our worship.*

3. Stephen Charnock:

*That God upon a throne should be an infant in a cradle; the thundering Creator be a weeping babe and a suffering man, are such expressions of mighty power, as well as condescending love, that they astonish men upon earth, and angels in heaven.*

4. David Gibson:

* *Sin against an infinite God requires an infinite payment, but a finite human cannot render this to God outside of an eternal hell… We need a Savior who is more than a man. Christ’s death, because of who He is as the God-man, is of infinite value and fully satisfies the righteous demands of an infinitely holy God.*
* *Theologians talk about the offering of Christ’s life as his active obedience, and the offering of His death as his passive obedience, and both are necessary to save us. In His death, Christ gave Himself up and received the judicial punishment for sin (passive), but He was an acceptable offering because He was a guilt-free and wholly obedient man (active), and so was worthy of taking the place of guilt-laden, thoroughly disobedient sinners.*

5. John Calvin:

*From the time when He took on the form of a servant, Christ began to pay the price of liberation in order to redeem us.*

5. Kevin DeYoung:

*Womb to tomb, that’s how quickly the Apostle’s Creed covers the life of Jesus. It skips His public ministry and goes right from His birth to His death. The Creed does not make this leap to denigrate Jesus’ teaching and miracles but because those who wrote the Creed, … not to mention Peter, John, and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles, understood that the main thing about Jesus’ life was his death*.

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE TEXTS**

* **Ps. 80:8; Jer. 2:21; 1 Cor. 15:20; James 1:18**
* **John 6:37; John 10:28; Rom. 8:30; John 2:23-25**
* **John 1:1-18; Is. 9:6; Gal. 4:4**
* **Heb. 9:24-28**